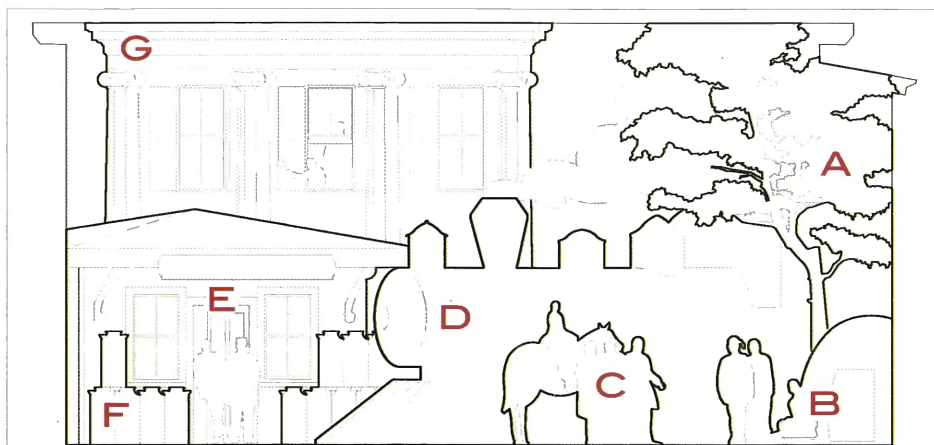




PINE PLAINS

PINE PLAINS MURAL  
BY DOUG LARSON





Graphic created by: Melody Swanson

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### **A: OLD PINE TREE ON PINE STREET**

The rendition of this pine tree was inspired by a photograph, taken in 1894, in Isaac Huntting's *History of Little Nine Partners of North East Precinct and Pine Plains, New York*. The Mahican (Mohican) Indians, an Eastern Algonquian tribe, were based mainly in the Hudson Valley and had many villages in the area before the American Revolution. As a green perennial, the pine tree was an emblem of eternal life and revered by the Mahicans for its beauty and the kinship they felt for the evergreen. Near the

bend in Pine Street, the last of an old grove of native pines, is where the Mahican Indian chiefs were buried looking East toward the Taghkanics and the rising sun.

### **B: SHEKOMEKO INDIANS**

Close to the hamlet of Bethel and close to Halcyon Lake, there was a Mahican Indian village which survived until the mid 1700s. Thereafter increasing European settlement and the brewing American Revolution caused many Native Americans to relocate further west, eventually to Wisconsin under a government relocation plan. The hut was typical of the American Indians at the time as displayed in the murals in the Warburg Hall of the New York State Environment at the American Museum of Natural History. A sketch of the actual village is in the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

The first Indian on the left is Tschoop who was a renowned chief of the village. Originally a rebellious carouser who was suspicious of the Moravians, Tschoop eventually converted to Christianity and died in 1746 during a visit to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. It is said that people visited Tschoop's grave as they thought he was the model for the character Uncas romanticized in James Fenimore Cooper's historical novel, *The Last of the Mohicans: A Narrative of 1757*. Tschoop's conversion is documented in the famous painting, "First Fruits," by Moravian artist John Valentine Haidt.

The Indian in the middle is Shabasch, another Indian chief, who lived at Shekomeko. He accompanied Tschoop to New York City where they met the missionary Christian Henry Rauch who, on the next day, followed the Indians to Bethel. Shabasch fled to Pennsylvania when the mission and village was disbanded. He died in Wyoming Pennsylvania in 1762. The last Indian is Kiop and was a member of the Indian village.

### **C: THE MORAVIANS**

Moravian missionaries visited the Shekomeko Indian village in 1740 and lived with them, building a church near Bethel Cross and Strever Farm roads.

First in line is Nicolaus von Zinzendorf, a German nobleman, who sheltered the Moravians in the village of Herrenhut on his estate in Saxony in Germany until they emigrated to the new world in the early 1700s. He helped finance multiple missionaries to all parts of the world. Von Zinzendorf visited the Shekomeko Mission in 1742 and he wrote about his time there.

Second is Christian Henry Rauch, a Moravian missionary, who met Tschoop and Shabasch in New York City in 1740. Rauch followed the Indians back to Shekomeko Village where he lived with them for four years until ordered to leave by Governor Clinton. There was local opposition and fear of both Indians and religious groups over the brewing French and Indian war.

Last is Gottlieb Buettner, a Moravian missionary who came to the village in 1742. Buettner was beloved and honored by the Indians: His grave stone was found in an old stone wall near the former Indian village, and the Moravians erected an obelisk near his grave in 1859. This can still be seen today at the corner of Bethel Cross and Strever Farm Roads.

On the horse is Benigna von Zinzendorf who accompanied her father, Nicolaus, on his 1742 visit to the village and mission. She founded the first school for girls in Pennsylvania, now Moravian College, and actively sought to enroll the daughters of Native Americans.

### **D: PINE PLAINS RAILROAD(S)**

From the mid 1800s to the early 1900s, three train lines passed through Pine Plains - The ND&C (Newburgh, Dutchess & Connecticut Railroad), the P&C (Poughkeepsie and Connecticut Railroad) and the P&E (Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad). The trains carried passengers, but also were a means to get milk from the dairy farms and the creameries into New York City.

### **E: THE TRAIN STATION(S)**

All three train lines established stations near the center of town. One station was on Railroad Avenue near Deuel's Hardware, another on South Main Street closer to town, the third was west of town on Church Street near Highway Boulevard. Patrick J. Clifford was the last agent on duty when the train lines were abandoned in July 1938. Conductor Crawford checks the train's arrival.

### **F: THE MILK CANS**

The milk trains had priority over the passenger trains. Milk was collected in the milk cans, separated at creameries and delivered to the trains at various points. It was kept cool with ice from Mud Pond, now Twin Island Lake. The area was dotted with active dairy farms but eventually the trains became obsolete as refrigerated trucks were used to get milk to the city.

### **G: THE DAVIS HOUSE**

The Davis House was a large Greek Revival house, which stood in Peck's Market parking lot from approximately 1834 to the mid 1960s, when it was torn down by the Grand Union grocery store chain. Old photos show a nicely proportioned house with a large two-story porch of Ionic columns facing Church Street and a triangular pediment (not painted) with a Palladian window in the attic and shutters on all the other windows.

Dr. Jacob Isaac Hermance Davis was a prominent doctor, originally from Red Hook. He married into the Culver family, moved to Pine Plains and built the house on Church Street. He adopted the homeopathic practice and died in Pine Plains in 1857. Ann Davis, the youngest daughter of Jacob Davis and Eliza Culver Davis, lived her whole life in the house on Church Street. She was ten when her father died. The Davis House was torn down about the same time as many other famous Classical buildings, including New York City's Penn Station and the Catskill Mountain House, that were considered "old-fashioned" at the time.



The Pine Plains mural was commissioned by Irene and Jack Banning of Black Sheep Hill Farm in Pine Plains, and owners of the building and café, the Pine Plains Platter.

They would like to thank their colleagues and friends who have been supportive of the project: Don Peck of Peck's market whose parking lot faces the facade; Pine Plains Town Council Member Sandra David; Joan Osofsky, the owner of Hammertown Barn; Thayer Durell, co-owner of TLC Antiques located in the hamlet; and Patricia Jean, who is the co-owner with her husband Chef Michel Jean of The Stissing House.

Irene and Jack also thank architect and scene painter Doug Larson whose incredible winning entry won them over for its creativity, beauty and connection to the town's vanished history and who "executed the project flawlessly."



Doug is a partner at Larson and Paul Architects in New York City and has newly established an office in Pine Plains. Doug thanks especially Ann Simmons and Little Nine Partners Historical Society; Bernie Rudberg, for his research; painters Ray Bugara and Bill Mullavey as well as Martin Soria, all who helped Doug bring the project to fruition in the searing heat; Jock Pottle for his photographs; Javier Gomez for his scaffolding and support; and of course Irene and Jack whose inspiration and energy made it all happen.